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Thematic cluster for the implementation cycle 2008-2009 — review session

Discussion papers submitted by major groups

Note by the Secretariat

1. The Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation")[1] and the decisions of the eleventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development[2] called for strengthened involvement and enhanced participation of major groups in the activities of the Commission on Sustainable Development as well as in the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

2. The analytical basis for understanding and assessing the contribution of the major groups worldwide in advancing the implementation of the above-mentioned agreements is provided by their review inputs known as discussion papers, and contained in the addenda to the present note.

3. The discussion papers reflect the overall views of the major groups on the status of implementation of commitments made related to agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa, including references to cross-sectoral themes, successes and challenges of implementation, and practical contributions, and identify new challenges to be met by major groups to expedite implementation. These discussion papers will serve as a starting point for major groups' participation in the activities of the Commission at its sixteenth session.

* E/CN.17/2008/1.

[1] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[2] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council 2003, Supplement No. 9* (E/2003/29), chap. I.

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4. The organization of major groups' written input to the Commission at its sixteenth session has been inspired by practices used in past sessions of the Commission through a multi-stakeholder "facilitating group" composed of organizing partners from network organizations representing the nine major groups. The current cycle's organizing partners are: the Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN), African Women Leaders in Agriculture and the Environment (AWLAE), the GRATIS Foundation for women; the Commission on Sustainable Development Youth Caucus for youth and children; the Commission on Sustainable Development Indigenous Peoples' Caucus, Tebtebba-Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education and the Indigenous Environmental Network, for indigenous people; the Sustainable Development Issues Network (through the Northern Alliance for Sustainability, the Third World Network and the Environment Liaison Centre International) for non-governmental organizations; Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) for local authorities; the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) (through the Trade Union Advisory Committee (TUAC) to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) for workers and trade unions; the International Fertilizer Industry Association (IFA), the International Chamber of Commerce and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) for business and industry; the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) for scientific and technological communities; and the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP) for farmers.

5. In addition to coordinating the major groups' official written inputs to the Commission, the organizing partners are tasked with coordinating their respective sectors' participation throughout the sixteenth session of the Commission, working collaboratively with other major group sectors' representatives present at the session and in the regional implementation meetings, and all other stakeholders.

6. Views and proposed solutions of the major groups to meet challenges and overcome problems related to the topics being reviewed should inform the Commission at its sixteenth session and inspire Governmental partners in the lead-up to the seventeenth session (policy session), thus allowing for meaningful and direct contributions by stakeholder groups to the decisions and work of the Commission.